

Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved. We ask that our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us to honor this fallen hero who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our community.

IN HONOR OF FORMER ALBANY
CHIEF OF POLICE WASHINGTON
LONG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding public servant, Mr. Washington Long, the first black Police Chief in the history of Albany, Georgia. Sadly, Chief Long died on Thursday, June 19, 2014. A funeral service will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia with interment following at Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Long was born in Marianna, Florida. He enlisted in the United States Army at an early age, before transferring to the Air Force. While stationed at Turner Air Force Base in Albany, he met then Albany Police Department Chief Laurie Pritchett. Chief Pritchett saw potential in Mr. Long and asked him to join the force if Chief Pritchett could convince the commissioners to hire black police officers. Mr. Long made up his mind to join the Police Department when he was stopped by a police officer in downtown Albany, where racial strife was profuse in the years following the Albany Movement, a part of the greater Civil Rights Movement. He believed he could be a better police officer than the one who stopped him and so in 1966, Mr. Long became one of the city's first black police officers.

In the police department, Mr. Long rose through the ranks of Corporal, Detective, Captain, Major and Assistant Chief. In 1987, Mr. Long was named Chief of the Albany Police Department, becoming the city's first black police chief. He held this post until he retired in 1994.

During his nearly thirty-year career with the Albany Police Department, Chief Long served the citizens of Albany, Georgia with devotion and distinction. Responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of the residents of Albany, Chief Long proved to be a strong and revered leader. A great number of challenges came with a position of this caliber, exacerbated by the lingering effects of segregation and racial tension. Chief Long met these challenges head-on with steadfast humility and strong moral fiber.

Chief Long was a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church for over fifty years and served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of numerous community organizations, the most notable being the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Albany—East Albany Unit. He sponsored the membership for many children over the years so that they could have a support system in the community to encourage them to realize their full potential.

Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we oc-

cupy here on this earth." Chief Long's life was defined by service. He paid his rent and he paid it well through his distinguished service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for the people of Albany. He will truly be missed.

Chief Long is survived by his daughter, Lisa; son, Ronald; and siblings Gertrude, Coriel, Paul, William, Frederick and Mariah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to Chief Washington Long and his legacy of service to Albany, Georgia. He loved the people of Albany and he was committed to making the community safer to live in and to improving the quality of life. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN SUPPORT OF VOTING RIGHTS
AND THE VOTER RIGHTS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the right of all Americans to vote without fear of discrimination, no matter their race, color, or political beliefs.

In 1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act. The enactment of VRA fulfilled a century of work towards guaranteeing that our most fundamental right—the right to vote—would be protected for all Americans, including in states and local jurisdictions that had historically denied or disempowered minority voters.

The protections provided in VRA ensure that historically disenfranchised communities in our country are now able to freely vote. The very chamber we stand in today is a reflection of the success of VRA, seen in the election of dozens of Members of Congress who come from these very communities.

A year ago today, however, the successes of VRA became endangered when the Supreme Court ruled in a controversial 5–4 decision that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Act, which had been used to determine the states and political subdivisions subject to Section 5 preclearance, was unconstitutional.

As a result of the Court's opinion in *Shelby*, the right to vote for millions of Americans, including my constituents in Houston and Harris County, are now endangered. Immediately after the high court's ruling, the State of Texas announced that it would put into immediate effect a voter ID law that had been previously blocked by a federal court because the state law's restrictions target the very communities that are meant to be protected under Section 5.

Congress must act. The right to vote for all is at the very heart of our democracy.

Bipartisan legislation, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, has been introduced in this Congress that would provide a new coverage formula based on current problems in voting and directly respond to the high court's concerns.

This is not perfect legislation, but it would go a long way towards restoring the protections that my constituents had before the Court's decision.

I urge my colleagues to bring the Voting Rights Amendment Act to a floor vote and ensure that our most sacred right—the right to vote—is protected for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE POUGH
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Oak Park, Illinois, Essie Pough, as she retires from the Illinois Department of Human Services after 46 years of public service to the state of Illinois and its citizens. On behalf of the 7th District of Illinois, I congratulate and commend Mrs. Pough for almost five decades of outstanding dedication to the state.

Mrs. Pough began her career when the agency was known as the Illinois Department of Public Aid. She has worked at multiple locations for the agency, providing the customers with professional assistance at each—whether she was in the Walcott office, the Madison office, or in Humboldt Park. As an example of her commitment to the public, Mrs. Pough started taking Spanish classes after moving to her Humboldt Park office which serves a large number of Illinoisans who speak Spanish. She worked at the Humboldt Park office for 30 years.

Although small in stature, Mrs. Pough has a dynamic and impressive personality that amazes her friends, family and co-workers. I also understand that she has a fondness for high heels, even starting her work day by walking up the stairs to her second floor office every day in 4-inch heels, which no doubt helps explain her health and fitness to this day. Mrs. Pough is a caring friend and co-worker. Her propensity to routinely feed her colleagues makes me disappointed that I never had the opportunity to work with her. In addition, she regularly supported her coworkers' accomplishments with parties to recognize birthdays and promotions as well as led the annual Black History celebration.

Outside of work, Mrs. Pough is an avid bowler with an average of 133. Impressively, she has already bowled 200 twice this year alone. These scores are especially notable given her distinctive bowling stance, bowling while down on one knee. She is an active member of Living Word Christian Center where she adds her beautiful voice to the choir and shares her bowling talents with the bowling team.

In closing, I join with the friends of Essie Pough and her 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren in celebrating her retirement on April 30, 2014, after 46 years of public service. I recognize Mrs. Pough's dedication to her community and state as well as convey my deep appreciation for her service. I am honored to celebrate the achievements of Mrs. Pough and am hopeful for a prosperous and active retirement.